


# Fort Wayne's Contacts With Abraham Lincoln

by  
R. Gerald McMurtry



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# Fort Wayne's Contacts With Abraham Lincoln

By

R. Gerald McMurtry, Director

Lincoln Library-Museum

of

The Lincoln National Life Foundation, Inc.

Public Library of Fort Wayne and Allen County  
1966

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Although Abraham Lincoln resided in Indiana for a period of fourteen years (1816-1830), it is hardly likely that as a youth living in the southern part of the state he ever had occasion to hear about or refer to the then budding village of Fort Wayne.

Lincoln did have occasion to mention Fort Wayne in a speech on the "Presidential Question" made before the United States House of Representatives on July 27, 1848. The address bore the subtitle: "General Taylor and The Veto." Delivered in a politically sarcastic but humorous vein, Congressman Lincoln's address was an attack on General Lewis Cass whom the Democrat politicians were grooming for the Presidency. In dealing with Cass' many charges against the public treasury, Lincoln mentioned his opponent's excessive fees as Superintendent of Indian Affairs which included the agencies at Piqua, Ohio; Fort Wayne, Indiana; and Chicago, Illinois.

So far as is known, this is the only time Lincoln ever mentioned Fort Wayne in a speech, and apparently no other letter is extant, or perhaps ever existed, in which the addressee was a resident of Fort Wayne.

For many years the staff of the Library-Museum of the Lincoln National Life Foundation searched unsuccessfully for some record of a visit by Lincoln to Fort Wayne. Perhaps this search would have been forever futile had not a newspaper correspondent in search of material for his "One Hundred Years Ago" column discovered a six line news item in Dawson's Daily News of Fort Wayne for February 23, 1860. The brief notice is significant:

"Hon. Abe Lincoln and wife came from the West this morning at 1 o'clock, on the T.W. & W.R.R., and changing cars at this city, went east. 'Old Abe' looked as if his pattern had been a mighty ugly one."

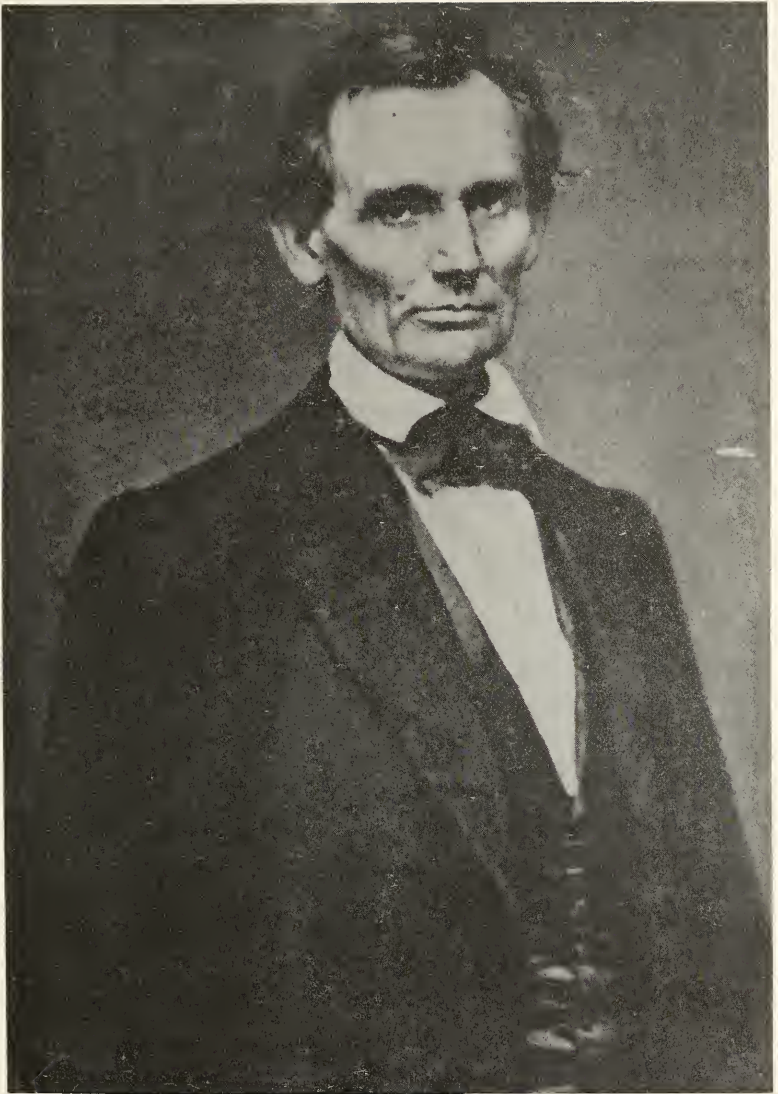
Hon. Abe Lincoln and wife came from the west this morning at 1 o'clock, on the T. W. & W. R. R., and changing cars at this city went east. "Old Abe" looked like as if his pattern had been a mighty ugly one.

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Retouched excerpt from Dawson's Daily News, February 23, 1860. Fort Wayne, Indiana.

The last sentence of the brief news item clearly identifies "Old Abe" as the prairie lawyer of Springfield, Illinois.

It was Dr. Louis A. Warren, former Director of the Lincoln National Life Foundation, who was able to unravel certain confusing statements made by the Fort Wayne reporter. For example, the statement that Lincoln's wife accompanied him is known to be erroneous. The lady in question was Mrs. Stephen Smith, who was accompanied by her infant son, Dudley. Her husband was a brother of Clark N. Smith who had married Ann Todd, a sister of Mrs. Lincoln. She traveled as far as Philadelphia with Mr. Lincoln so that he might assist her with her baggage and small son. Mrs. Smith reached her destination at 1:00 A.M. Saturday, and Lincoln continued his journey to New York City the same morning.

Lincoln was enroute to New York City to deliver his Cooper Union Address, which was scheduled for the evening of February 27, 1860. His train left Springfield, Illinois at 10:15 A.M. on Wednesday, February 22nd. Traveling on a Toledo, Wabash & Western train, he arrived in Fort Wayne one hour late, although there was ample time to catch the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago train at 1:12 A.M. (Thursday). His route of travel through Indiana from State Line to Fort Wayne included the larger cities of Lafayette and Logansport.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
Abraham Lincoln

Photograph taken by Mathew B. Brady in New York, N. Y. on February 25, 1860 two days after the future Sixteenth President passed through Fort Wayne enroute to the East.



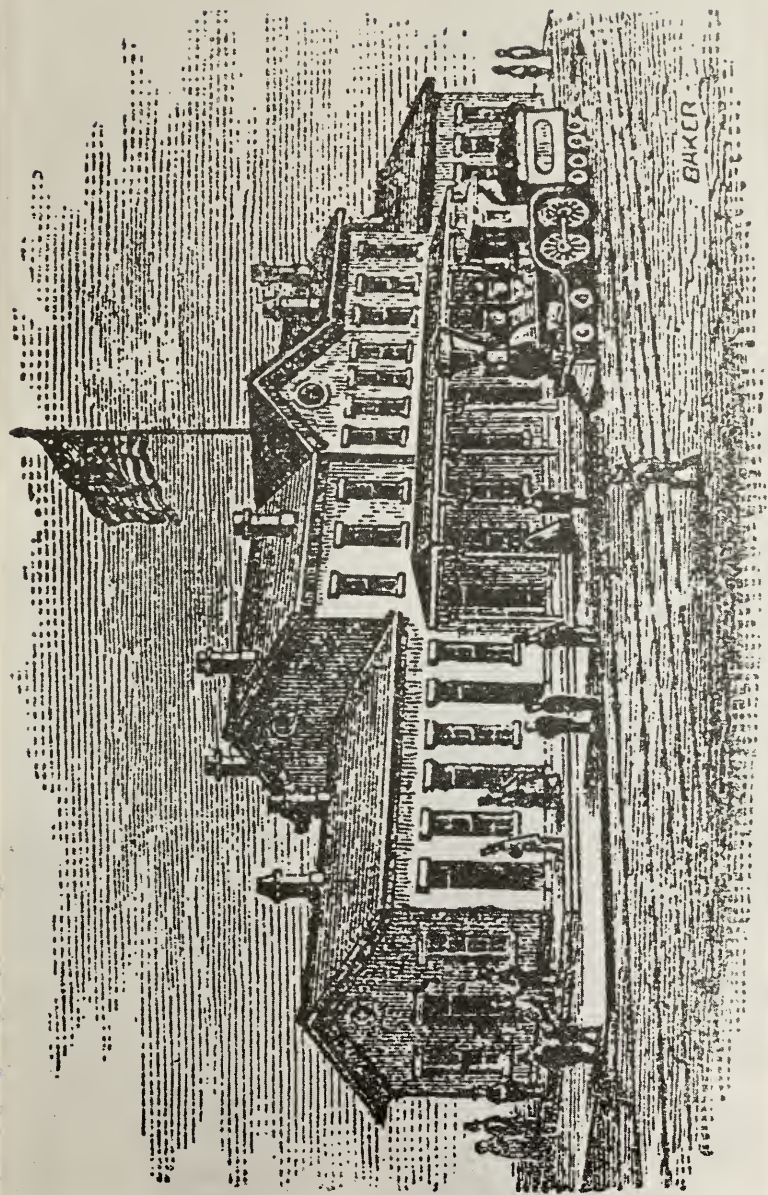
The discovery of the Dawson Daily News item will necessitate the re-writing of history so far as this significant event in the life of Lincoln is concerned. Earlier biographers and historians were of the opinion that Lincoln traveled to the East from Chicago, Illinois, over the Pennsylvania Railroad or its connecting lines for Philadelphia. With the wrong route in mind Lincoln biographers have gone so far as to suggest that while in Chicago Lincoln left his Cooper Union Address manuscript for correction with Joseph Medill and Charles H. Ray, editors of the Tribune. This error was further compounded many years later when Medill, speaking as a guest of honor at a dinner in the nation's Capital, was reported by The Washington Post to have said, in reference to the purported incident, that he made "about 40 changes" in the Lincoln Address manuscript. Medill also was reported to have said that ". . . the others to whom the address had been submitted were equally careful, and they made several amendments." Medill was also quoted as having said that "when the speech was finally delivered, it was exactly word for word with the original copy which Lincoln gave us."

Lincoln's Cooper Union Address was one of the most significant speeches of his political career. Its delivery in New York City, along with subsequent speeches that he delivered in New England, made it possible for him to receive the nomination for the Presidency on the Republican ticket in May of 1860.

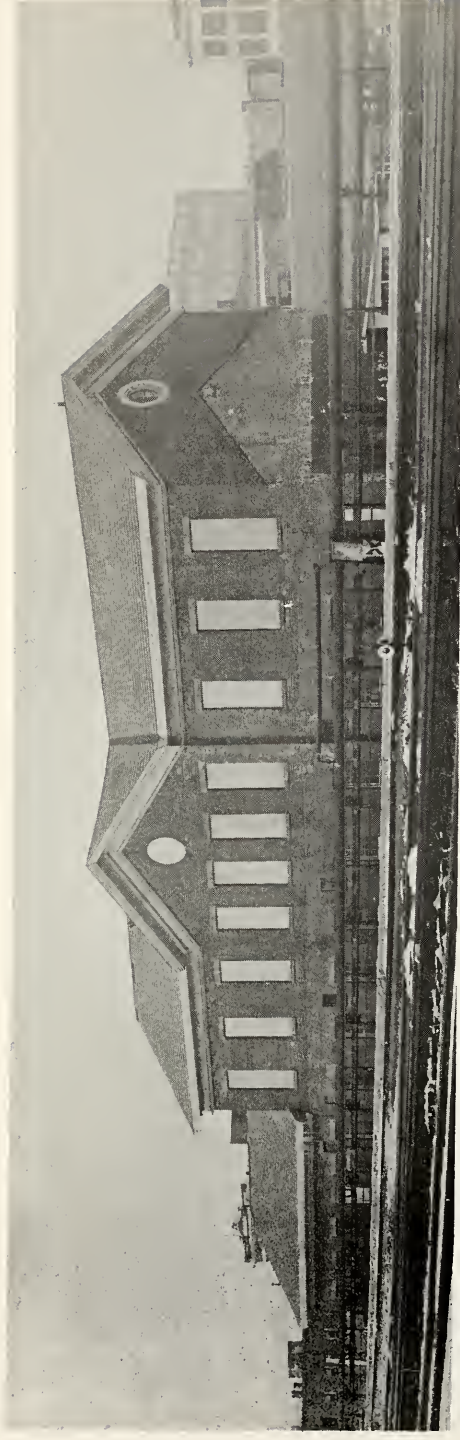
With many speaking engagements to fill, Lincoln hoped to return to Springfield on Monday, March 12th, but he found this schedule impossible. Leaving New York City over the Erie Road he boarded the Toledo, Wabash and Western train at Toledo on Tuesday, March 13th, and he passed through Fort Wayne at 5:20 P.M. This time there was no Dawson Daily News man at the railroad station to report the movement of this now distinguished visitor. Lincoln arrived in Springfield at 6:50 A.M. Wednesday morning, March 14th.

The only building in Fort Wayne associated with Lincoln is the old Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago railway station constructed in the year 1858. It is located south of the center of the 100 block of East Baker Street facing the bank of the Pennsylvania elevation. Now the property of C. A. Grieger, Inc. the structure will be razed this fall or next spring. This hurried round-trip through Indiana did not afford Lincoln very many opportunities to recall familiar scenes or to make important contacts with Hoosier





From Griswold's "Pictorial History of Fort Wayne."  
Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad Station constructed in 1858.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
The Pittsburgh, Chicago & Fort Wayne Railway Station  
(as it appears today) where Lincoln changed trains in  
Fort Wayne on February 23, 1860. Constructed in  
1858, this building (except for one wing) is still stand-  
ing, but it will be razed this fall or next spring by its  
owners, C. A. Grieger, Inc. (Note a portion of the  
home office building of the Lincoln National Life In-  
surance Company at the immediate right.)

politicians. However, never had a journey been more profitable for a budding presidential candidate than this trip to New York City to deliver the Cooper Union speech.

While Lincoln visited Fort Wayne on only one (round-trip) occasion, a great many legends and traditions about Lincoln and his campaigns for the Presidency have been related by older citizens of the city and community. The Journal-Gazette of February 13, 1942 published a story about a ninety year old Kendallville, Indiana man named P. A. Waldron who recalled "that the great emancipator once smiled at him and patted his shoulder at a Fort Wayne railway station where the President's train had stopped a few minutes while en route from Chicago to Washington."

Although the late Mr. Waldron's reminiscences are somewhat garbled in relation to the established facts, it is possible that he might have seen Lincoln catch the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago train at 1:12 A.M. (Thursday) on February 23, 1860. Such a statement, however, is puzzling because Lincoln in February 1860 had hardly assumed the role of "Great Emancipator" or affected the "Father Abraham" image.

The local political accounts of the Presidential campaign of 1860 reveal that Fort Wayne was a Stephen A. Douglas town and was rather boisterous in the support of its favorite candidate. Several years ago the oral reminiscences of George W. Stover, an early resident of Ossian and Fort Wayne, were written down and made available to the Foundation by his daughter-in-law, Mrs. James Stover, 4516 Smith Street, of this city. They follow:

"Back in 1860 the Rockhill House was Fort Wayne's newest hotel. The first one was the Hediken House on Barr Street. We knew the Rockhill House as the old part of the St. Joseph Hospital, at the corner of Main & Broadway. Perhaps, you will remember that a little iron balcony extended over Main Street. (This building was torn down to make way for the new section of the Hospital.)

"Stephen A. Douglas came to Fort Wayne in 1860, campaigning against Lincoln. He stayed at the Rockhill House and made a five minute speech from that balcony. Later his 'Speech of the day' was made on the banks of the River just south of the Main Street bridge, where bleachers were built to take care of the crowd. That was a gala day!

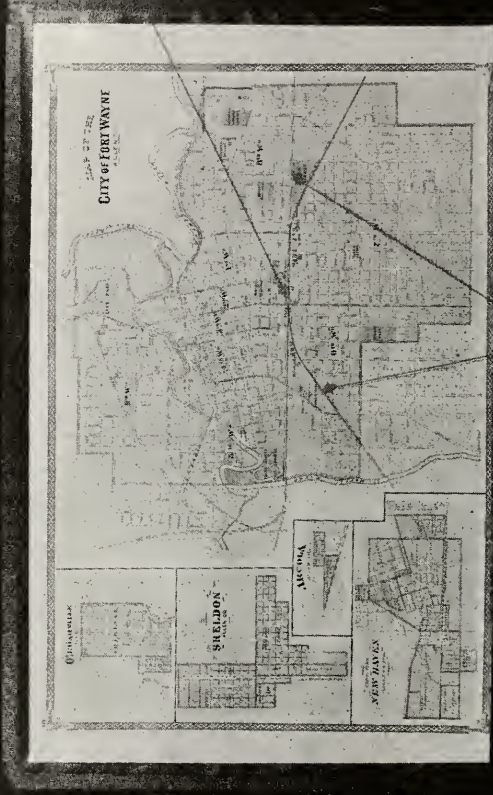
"Father Stover was a small boy then. He often told us the story. His foster father brought him all the way from Bluffton over the old plank road. They started long before dawn so that they'd arrive in time for the parade.



# ABRAHAM LINCOLN'S ONLY VISIT TO FORT WAYNE, IND.

was when he was enroute to New York city to deliver the Cooper Union Address...

FEBRUARY 23, 1860



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation Exhibit  
in the Lincoln Life's Library-Museum giving details  
of Abraham Lincoln's only visit to Fort Wayne, Indiana.

"It was a wonderful parade! It started at the Courthouse and went all the way to the Main Street bridge. Bands played, and all the people applauded Stephen A. Douglas. Somewhere about half way along the line of march, there was a great commotion and a float broke into the parade. It was a huge hay-wagon, and on it was a tall, lanky young man dressed to represent Abe Lincoln, and he was splitting rails. The float was so clever and realistic that it was stealing the show. Of course, it moved very slowly as it was drawn by two teams of oxen. Something must be done as it was breaking the parade in two.

"Main Street was a narrow grass grown road. The float moved so slowly, and the road was so narrow that the rest of the parade could not pass it. But, the grass helped to solve the problem. Some enterprising person thought of salt, and sprinkled it on the grass beside the road. The oxen pulled out of line of the parade to lick the salt, and no amount of urging could get them to move on. The parade moved on to its destination where the Speech was to be made, and quite a political rally took place. It turned out to be Stephen Douglas' day, . . . but as we all remember, Lincoln was successful and at the inaugurations became our President."

Other stories have been related about that October 2nd day in 1860 when Douglas came to Fort Wayne in his canvass against the "Railsplitter of the Sangamon." It is said that on this occasion a huge sawlog, intended to represent Abraham Lincoln, was flung into the St. Mary's River as a defiant gesture of derision against the Republican candidate. Apparently, the sawlog was a part of a political float which was intended as a challenge to the "Black Republicans." However, it is said that only one protest was made. That occurred when the float halted before the house of a rabid abolitionist whose wife came out on the porch "most unwisely . . . and with angry words raised her fist against this provocation."

The boisterous political activity continued all day in Fort Wayne, and "at sunset there was a hue and cry, 'Everybody to the Court House.'" This time a straw figure of Abraham Lincoln was hanged in effigy.

On November 6, 1860, election day, the people of Allen County and Fort Wayne voted. The results, ignoring the technicality that the ballots were cast for Presidential electors, were 3,224 votes for Douglas; 2,552 for Lincoln; 42 for Breckinridge; and 32 for Bell. These returns were sent to the Secretary of State by I. D. G. Nelson, Allen County Clerk.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Hugh McCulloch: Cashier and Manager of the Fort Wayne Branch of the State Bank of Indiana, 1835-56; President of State Bank of Indiana, 1856-63; Comptroller of Currency, 1863-65; U.S. Secretary of Treasury 1865-69 (1884-85), and author of "Men and Measures of Half a Century," 1888.

It was Hugh McCulloch, a prominent Indiana banker, who summarized for the people of Fort Wayne, in an address delivered on July 4, 1861, the significance of the November 1860 election:

"The election of Lincoln, a sectional candidate, was of itself an evidence of the deep-rooted hostility of the North to slavery, and rendered the continuance of the Southern States in the Union dishonorable and dangerous to them.

"But the election of Lincoln would not probably have occurred but for the course of the ultraists in breaking up the Charleston convention, and the intelligence of his election was received with rapturous delight by those who pretended to regard it as a calamity. Mr. Douglas gave it as his opinion that the same game would have been played if he had been the successful candidate.

"Lincoln was elected in conformity with the Constitution. It would, at all events, have been prudent, not to say patriotic, on the part of his opponents at the South if they had, as they pretended to have a reverence for the Constitution and a regard for the Union, to have awaited the developments of his administration, and if any demonstrations were made by him or his party against their interests, to have held them in check by their majority in the Senate and the expressed opinions of the Supreme Court before taking extreme measures to protect those interests against imaginary dangers. . . ."

McCulloch delivered this address in Fort Wayne when an intense war feeling among its citizens was thoroughly aroused, and when great indignation was felt against the Southern States.

With the advent of the Civil War Lincoln gained popularity with Hoosier voters, even though Fort Wayne remained a Democratic city. On November 7, 1864 Indiana contributed to Lincoln's sweeping national victory by giving him a 20,000 majority over General George B. McClellan, the Democratic standard bearer. Fort Wayne's vote, however, was 2244 for (Union-Republican Presidential electors) Lincoln and 4932 for (Democratic Presidential electors) McClellan. These returns were sent to the Secretary of State by William Fleming, the Allen County Clerk.

While Lincoln had little contact with Fort Wayne, he did name a citizen of the city, Hugh McCulloch, as a member of his Cabinet. McCulloch, born in 1808 at Kennebunk, Maine, moved to Fort Wayne as a young man. In one of his addresses delivered in Fort Wayne on October 11, 1865, McCulloch made the statement that "No place will ever be so dear to me as Fort Wayne; no friendships will ever be so strong as those which I have formed here. I



am, you know, one of the pioneers of this beautiful city. When I crossed the St. Mary's, swimming my horse by a side of a canoe, on the 23rd of June, 1833, Fort Wayne was a hamlet, containing a few hundred souls; an Indian trading post, a mere dot of civilization in the heart of a magnificent wilderness. Under my own eye, as it were, it has become a city of nearly twenty thousand people, a city full of vigor and enterprise, the second city of the State. I am proud of Fort Wayne and of the noble State of Indiana--a State which has been second to no State in the Union in her devotion to the Government and in the gallantry with which her sons have defended it. I am thankful when I crossed the mountains, in common parlance, 'to seek my fortune,' my feet were directed to Indiana, and especially to this place. Wherever duty may call me hereafter, this will ever be to me my home. Many of my kindred sleep in our beautiful cemetery, and there, I trust, will be my resting-place when I am called upon to join the great company of the departed."

Practicing first as a lawyer and then winning considerable distinction as an Indiana banker, McCulloch was asked by Secretary of the Treasury Salmon P. Chase, in March of 1863 to serve as Comptroller of the Currency. Accepting the position, McCulloch remained in charge of the National banking system until March 1865.

On March 5, 1865 Lincoln had an interview with McCulloch and asked him to take the post of Secretary of the Treasury. Chase had resigned the Treasury portfolio in 1864 to become Chief Justice of the Supreme Court, and W. P. Fessenden, his successor, had resigned the Cabinet position at the beginning of Lincoln's second term. McCulloch accepted the post and remained in that position until March 1869. It is of interest to note, however, that in October 1884, at the age of seventy-six, McCulloch was requested by President Chester A. Arthur to resume the position of Secretary of the Treasury to succeed W. O. Gresham who resigned. McCulloch held the post until the end of the Arthur Administration.

In his book, "Men and Measures of Half A Century," Charles Scribner's Sons, 1888, McCulloch related in detail his interview with President Lincoln:

"A day or two after his second inauguration, Mr. Lincoln requested me, by one of his messengers, to call upon him at the White House at some time during the day, which I did in the afternoon. He was alone, and as he took my hand, he said: 'I have sent for you, Mr. McCulloch, to let you know that I want you to be Secretary of the Treasury, and if you do not object to it, I shall send

your name to the Senate.' I was taken all aback by this sudden and unexpected announcement. It was an office that I had not aspired to, and did not desire. I knew how arduous and difficult the duties of the head of that department were, and a place had been offered to me in New York which it would be greatly for my interest to accept. I hesitated for a moment, and then replied: 'I thank you, Mr. President, heartily for this mark of your confidence, and I should be glad to comply with your wishes if I did not distrust my ability to do what will be required of the Secretary of the Treasury in the existing financial condition of the Government.' 'I will be responsible for that,' said the President. 'I will be responsible for that, and so I reckon we will consider the matter settled.' The President seemed to be greatly careworn, but he was cheerful, and after a brief talk with him I returned to my office and said nothing to any one about the interview. I was, I confess, gratified by being asked to take the most important place in the Government, but I was troubled as I thought of its duties and responsibilities. I could not say which feeling predominated--gratification or dread. The next day my nomination was sent to the Senate, and was, as I understood, unanimously confirmed.

"I may say here that I found the office a very laborious and thankless one. I gave my entire time to its duties, I was not away from it more than twenty days during the whole term (four years) which I held it, frequently working by night as well as by day. I was subject to the most liberal abuse in the Senate and the House, and to some extent by the press; and yet I was never sorry that I accepted the post. Responsibility I did not shrink from--hard work agreed with me--and the causeless abuse even of Senators did not disturb me. In looking back after so many years upon my administration of the Treasury, I can think of no recommendation which I made to Congress that did not merit favorable consideration; of no official act which I would recall."

As mentioned before, McCulloch delivered an address in Fort Wayne on October 11, 1865 during the course of which he eulogized the martyred President:

"Of Mr. Lincoln this is not a fitting occasion for me to speak freely. This much, however, I may be permitted to say, that the more I saw of him the higher became my admiration of his ability and his character. Before I went to Washington, and for a short period after, I doubted both his nerve and his statesmanship; but a

closer observation relieved me of these doubts, and long before his death I had come to the conclusion that he was a man of will, of energy, of well-balanced mind, and wonderful sagacity. His practice of story-telling when the Government seemed to be in imminent peril and the sublimest events were transpiring surprised, if it did not sometimes disgust, those who did not know him well; but it indicated on his part no want of a proper appreciation of the terrible responsibility which rested upon him as the chief magistrate of a great nation engaged in the suppression of a desperate rebellion which threatened its overthrow. Story-telling with him was something more than a habit. He was so accustomed to it in social life and in the practice of his profession that it became a part of his nature, and so accurate was his recollection, and so great a fund had he at command, that he had always anecdotes and stories to illustrate his arguments and delight those whose tastes were similar to his own; but those who judged from this trait that he had lacked deep feeling, or sound judgment, or a proper sense of the responsibility of his position, had no just appreciation of his character. He possessed all these qualities in an eminent degree. It was true of him, as it is true of all really noble and good men, that those who knew him best had the highest admiration of him. He was not a man of genius, but he possessed in a large degree what is far more valuable in a public man, excellent common sense. He did not seem to gain this knowledge from reading or from observation, for he read very few of our public journals, and was little inclined to call out the opinions of others. He was a representative of the people, and he understood what the people desired rather by a study of himself than of them. Granting that, although constitutionally honest himself, he did not put a very high valuation upon honesty in others, and that he sometimes permitted his partiality for his friends to influence his action in a manner that was hardly consistent with an upright administration of his great office, few men have held high positions whose conduct would so well bear the severest criticism as Mr. Lincoln's; but I shall not undertake his eulogy. The people have already passed judgment in favor of the nobleness and excellence of his character and the wisdom of his administration, and the pen of impartial history will confirm the judgment."

Hugh McCulloch did not retire in Fort Wayne as he had intimated he would in his speech of October 11, 1865. Instead he re-

tired in the neighborhood of Washington, D.C. He died at "Holly Hill, Prince George County, Virginia, on May 24, 1895. He was survived by two sons and two daughters.

While this city is proud of its historic tradition and has sought to honor its first citizens and memorialize some of their achievements, it has for some reason neglected Hugh McCulloch, who stands head and shoulders above all the other local or national leaders which Fort Wayne has contributed to the state and nation.

Following the death of Abraham Lincoln on April 15, 1865, several days elapsed before it was definitely known that the remains would be brought to Springfield, Illinois, for interment. Considerable pressure was brought to bear on the Lincolns to use the empty crypt in the basement of the United States Capitol that had been constructed, apparently without family authority, for the remains of George Washington.

Once Springfield was decided upon by the Lincoln family as the city where the President's remains were to be entombed, Secretary of War Edwin M. Stanton immediately began working on a schedule and itinerary with the numerous railroads that would be required to convey the body back to the Illinois capital.

Many people were of the opinion that the funeral cortege would follow the inaugural route of 1861 when President-elect Lincoln journeyed from Springfield to Washington. Wild rumors, completely unfounded, had the funeral train visiting practically every midwest village and town located on a railroad. Even federal and state officials were often confused by conflicting orders and misleading information.

The citizens of Fort Wayne, Indiana, were perhaps surprised and pleased to read a Gazette-Extra handbill dated Thursday, April 20th, 1865 announcing that "President Lincoln's Remains to Stop at Fort Wayne." Fort Wayne citizens were much more kindly disposed toward Lincoln the martyred President in 1865 than they had been toward Lincoln the politician on October 2, 1860 when he was hanged in effigy within the city limits.

An original copy of the Gazette-Extra for April 20th, 1865 has been acquired by the Foundation from Margaret J. Smith Estate, through the courtesy of F. A. Schack, formerly trust officer, for the Fort Wayne National Bank, the Executor. While Lincoln's remains were not brought through Fort Wayne, this is nevertheless a prized item of Lincolniana of local interest.

# GAZETTE-EXTRA.

THURSDAY. APRIL 20th, 1865.

## President Lincoln's Remains to stop at Fort Wayne.

Our Citizens to Receive them on behalf  
of the State.

Official from Adjutant Gen. Terrell

## MEETING TO-NIGHT.

The following dispatch from Adjutant General Terrell announces officially that the remains of the lamented late President Lincoln will pass through Fort Wayne on their way to Springfield, Illinois. As Fort Wayne is the only large town in the State through which they pass, we are called upon to exhibit on behalf of the State, as well as our own city, the respect and reverence we all feel for our illustrious dead. We therefore urge upon the citizens of Fort Wayne to meet at the Court House this evening at seven o'clock to make suitable arrangements for the occasion. Let our manifestation of respect be worthy the State of Indiana.

INDIANAPOLIS, April 20

Secretary Stanton telegraphs that the remains of President Lincoln will go direct to Springfield via Fort Wayne, on the Pittsburg, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad of course. The cortege cannot stop only for a few minutes in your city.

But it would be highly proper for your citizens to manifest their respect for the lamented Chief of the nation, by a general turn out with emblems of mourning as the remains pass. As Ft Wayne is the only prominent town in this State that will be thus honored timely arrangements should be made.

The remains will pass through Philadelphia, Harrisburg and Pittsburg, and you can ascertain in due time their arrival in your city.

W. H. H. Terrell,  
Adjutant General

From the Lincoln National Life Foundation  
An original copy of the Gazette-Extra broadside dated  
April 20, 1865, which erroneously placed Fort Wayne  
on the Lincoln funeral route.



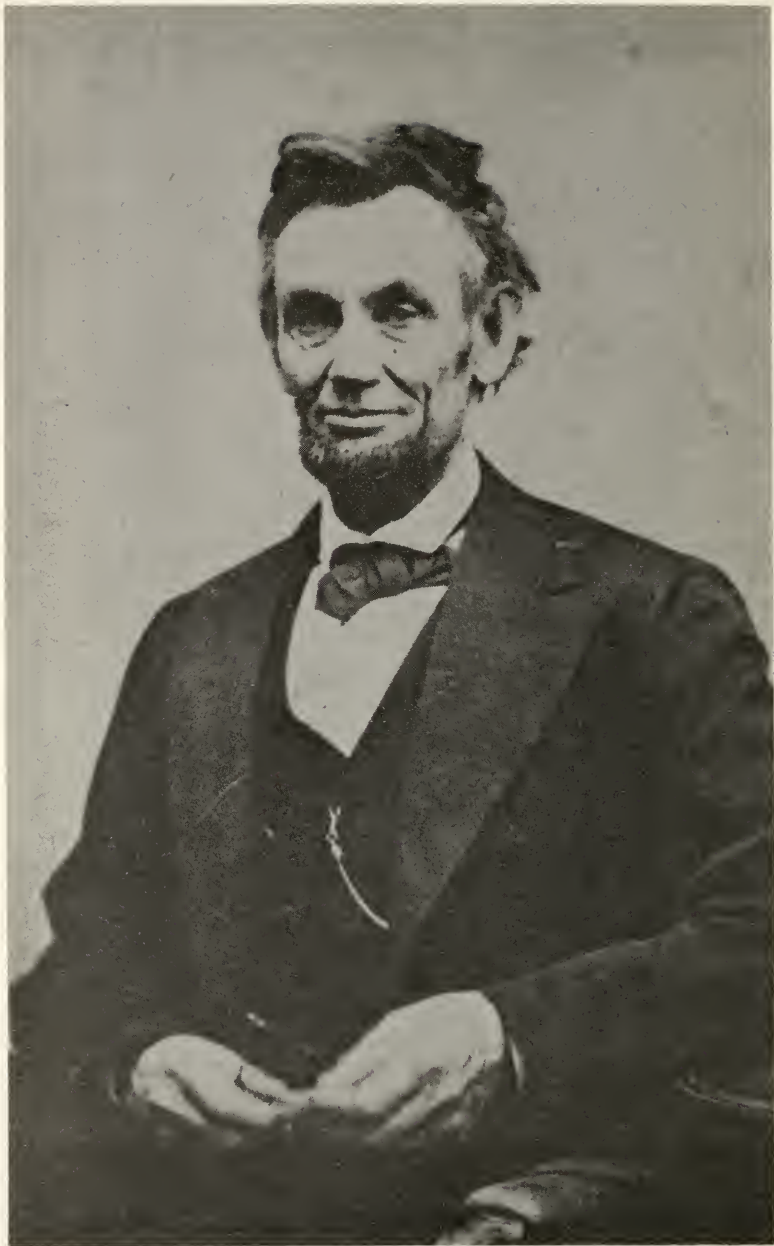
Once Secretary Stanton worked out the funeral route he altered Lincoln's inaugural itinerary by omitting Pittsburgh and Cincinnati and detouring by way of Chicago, instead of going direct to Springfield from Indianapolis.

Lincoln's remains reached Indianapolis from Columbus, Ohio by way of the Columbus and Indianapolis Central Railway, which is now a part of the Pennsylvania road. The first Indiana city to be reached enroute to Indianapolis was Richmond. All day Sunday, April 30, the body lay on public view in the Indiana State House.

About midnight the coffin was closed for the next journey by way of a special train enroute to Chicago. Three different railroads were utilized: "the Lafayette and Indianapolis to Lafayette; the Louisville, New Albany and Chicago from Lafayette to Michigan City; and thence the Michigan Central into Chicago." The "Special" enroute to Chicago was made up at Indianapolis and consisted of five cars of the Michigan Central Railroad Company, and two that had come through over the entire route. All of the cars were most appropriately and lavishly draped. Of the two cars named, one was the superb railway "carriage" built at the government railway shops in Alexandria, and intended as the President's private car. It was in this car that the President's remains were placed.

Throughout the entire trip the funeral train was preceded by a pilot engine and at every town and village along the Indiana route the grieving people gathered to watch the train go by. In many instances buildings and railway depots were decorated in somber black, salvos of artillery were fired, circulars of a memorial nature were distributed, choirs chanted, torches were lighted, evergreen arches were constructed, logs were burned, flags were draped, and mourning badges were worn to express the grief of the country and townspeople who knew in advance that the train would not stop at their station.

The Indiana cities, towns and villages along the funeral route were Richmond, Centerville, Cambridge City, Dublin, Lewisville, Coffin's Station, Ogdens, Raysville, Knightstown, Charlottville, Greenfield, Cumberland, Indianapolis, Zionsville, Whitestown, Lebanon, Thorntown, Clark's Hill, Stockwell, Lafayette, Battle Ground, Reynolds, Francisville, Medaryville, Lucerne, San Pierre, La-Crosse, Michigan City, Lake and Gibbons.



From the Lincoln National Life Foundation

Abraham Lincoln

Photograph taken by Alexander Gardner in Washington,  
D.C. on April 10, 1865.



When the train stopped at Michigan City one minor episode occurred. Some of the notable personages of the party from Washington were left behind. However, by means of an express engine, they were able to overtake the train at Porter Station. Chicago was reached at eleven o'clock on the morning of May 1.

While Fort Wayne Citizens were disappointed that Stanton's failure to utilize the Pittsburgh, Fort Wayne and Chicago Railroad had omitted their city from the funeral train's itinerary, their grief was just as sincere as that manifested in the more important cities between Washington and Springfield.

Today, the city of Fort Wayne is closely identified with the name and fame of the Sixteenth President, due to the phenomenal growth of The Lincoln National Life Insurance Company (founded in 1905) and its creation in 1928 of the Lincoln National Life Foundation with its Lincoln Library and Museum. Owing to the voluminous amount of Lincolniana that has been acquired by the Foundation over a period of thirty-six years, the city has become known as "A Center of Lincoln information in America."

Many factors can be enumerated to account for Lincoln's pre-eminent position among the world's great men. One significant factor has been the contribution made by the insurance industry in publicizing and disseminating information about this great American. The Lincoln National Life Foundation, for example, can boast of having assembled the greatest collection of organized printed material on the subject, and of publishing Lincoln Lore since April 15, 1929 (1532 bulletins up to November 1965) which constitutes the most voluminous printed work on any historical character. The Lincoln Library and Museum welcomes visitors on weekdays, Monday through Friday, from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M.

A further indication of the present day popularity of the Sixteenth President in this city as one of the nation's greatest heroes is that in Fort Wayne fourteen institutions bear the name "Lincoln." These include business establishments, a bank, an insurance company, and a school.







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